

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An R-T-B ~~system~~ rare earth permanent magnet, which comprises a sintered body comprising at least: main phase grains comprising  $R_2T_{14}B$  compounds (wherein R represents one or more rare earth elements, providing that the term "rare earth element" include Y (yttrium), and T represents one or more transition metal elements essentially containing Fe, or Fe and Co); and a grain boundary phase having a higher amount of R than said main phase grains,

which is characterized in that said sintered body satisfies the following formulas:

$$AVE(X)/Y = 0.8 \text{ to } 1.0; \text{ and}$$

$$(X/Y)_{\max}/(X/Y)_{\min} = 2.0 \text{ to } 13.0,$$

wherein X represents (the amount weight-ratio of heavy rare earth elements) (wt%) / (the amount weight-ratio of all the rare earth elements (wt%)) for a given number of said main phase grains in said sintered body;

Y represents (the amount weight ratio of heavy rare earth elements (wt%)) / (the amount weight ratio of all the rare earth elements) for said sintered body as a whole;

AVE(X) represents the mean value of X obtained for the given number of said main phase grains;

(X/Y)<sub>min</sub> represents the minimum value of (X/Y) obtained for the given number of said main phase grains; and

(X/Y)<sub>max</sub> represents the maximum value of (X/Y) obtained for the given number of said main phase grains.

2. (Currently Amended) The R-T-B ~~system~~ rare earth permanent magnet according to claim 1, characterized in that said sintered body satisfies the formulas: (X/Y)<sub>min</sub> = 0.1 to 0.6; and (X/Y)<sub>max</sub> = 1.0 to 1.6.

3. (Currently Amended) The R-T-B ~~system~~ rare earth permanent magnet according to claim 1, characterized in that said sintered body satisfies the formula: AVE(X)/Y = 0.82 to 0.98.

4. (Currently Amended) The R-T-B ~~system~~ rare earth permanent magnet according to claim 1, characterized in that said sintered body satisfies the formula: (X/Y)<sub>max</sub>/(X/Y)<sub>min</sub> = 3.0 to 10.0.

5. (Currently Amended) The R-T-B ~~system~~ rare earth permanent magnet according to claim 1, characterized in that said sintered body satisfies the formulas: (X/Y)<sub>min</sub> = 0.1 to 0.5; and (X/Y)<sub>max</sub> = 1.1 to 1.5.

6. (Currently Amended) The R-T-B ~~system~~ rare earth permanent magnet according to claim 1, characterized in that 85% or more of the total area occupied by said main phase grains is occupied by grains having a grain size of 15 μm or smaller.

7. (Currently Amended) The R-T-B ~~system~~ rare earth permanent magnet according to claim 1, characterized in that 85% or more of the total area occupied by said main phase grains is occupied by grains having a grain size of 10 μm or smaller.

8. (Currently Amended) The R-T-B ~~system~~ rare earth permanent magnet according to claim 1, characterized in that said magnet has a composition consisting essentially of 25 to 37 wt% of R, 0.5 to 1.5 wt% of B, 0.03 to 0.3 wt% of Al, 0.15 wt% or less of Cu (excluding 0), 2 wt% or less of Co (excluding 0), and the balance substantially being Fe.

9. (Currently Amended) The R-T-B ~~system~~ rare earth permanent magnet according to claim 8, characterized in that said magnet comprises 0.1 to 8.0 wt% of heavy rare earth elements as R.

10.-15. (Canceled)